Availability of Medicines and Tinctures in CGHS (Homoeopathic) units in Delhi

1692. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the essential medicines and Mother Tinctures are not available in the CGHS Homoeopathic dispensaries/units in Delhi;

(b) if so, the names of medicines and Mother Tinctures which are not available with the CGHS Homoeopathic dispensaries/units in Delhi;

(c) since when these medicines are not available and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to make available all medicines and Mother Tinctures in CGHS dispensaries/units in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Most of the essential medicines and mother tinctures are available in CGHS Homoeopathic dispensaries/units in Delhi.

Consumption of Cigarettes/Tobacco

1693. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made with regard to the rise/decrease in the consumption of cigarettes/tobacco among the male and female smokers both in the rural and urban areas in the country during the last five years;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of rise/decrease and how does the cigarette/tobacco habits in the country compare with those in the developing countries;

(c) what is the percentage of smokers anticipated to rise by the turn of the century with the present rate of cigarette/tobacco consumption in the country; and

(d) what measures, apart from the mandatory warning on the cigarette packets, have been taken by Government so far to discourage smoking habits and the manner in which Government propose to check this growing habit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) No country-wise survey of smoking trends has been carried out so far. However, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay conducted surveys on tobacco habits in the districts of Ernakulam (Kerala), Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh) and Bhavnagar (Gujarat). As per this survey, the prevalence of tobacco habit varied from 18 per cent to 86 per cent among males and from 8 per cent to 67 per cent among females.

(d) The measures undertaken to reduce the habit of smoking are:—

(a) educating the masses against use of tobacco products by highlighting its evil effects on health like cardio-vascular diseases, hypertension, oral and lung cancer etc.

(b) printing of statutory warning on cigarette packets, hoarding etc.

Measures proposed to be undertaken are:-

(c) ban on advertisement of cigarette and tobacco products on mass media, sports stadia etc.

(d) ban on smoking in public places, meetings, seminars etc.

Requirement of Floppy Discs

1694. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated annual requirement of floppy discs in India for the current year as well as for next two years;

(b) what is the indigenous capacity in the country as against this;